

Intelligence 15.
DoD Matters 25
DCI/IC 74-1020

13 MAY 1974

Mr. Wilfred H. Rommel
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Rommel:

This is in response to your request for our further views on DOD 93-84, proposed legislation by the Department of Defense "to exempt the Defense Intelligence Agency from the provisions of the civil service laws with regard to the employment and termination of civilian employees, and to change the authority for termination of civilian employees of the National Security Agency."

In November 1971, the President directed the Director of Central Intelligence to take specific steps to bring about a more cohesive and coordinated intelligence effort and to improve the product generally. He also called for the Director of Central Intelligence to give a high priority to the development of intelligence careers, an aspect of the major charge which is fundamental to its fulfillment.

It is in this context that I address DOD 93-84. At the present time the authorities granted to the Intelligence Community program managers in the acquisition, use, and separation of personnel are varied. The most effective system in the Community is provided in the CIA legislation which permits wide latitude in the use of intelligence personnel within a unique security environment. Different but equally sensitive activities to those of the Central Intelligence Agency are undertaken in the programs of the National Security Agency and in some of the programs of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

I understand both agencies in varying degrees now operate under Civil Service arrangements whose broader Government-wide provisions do not fully meet the special problems associated with the intelligence task. I further understand that NSA has available to it certain statutory authorities and exemptions not available to DIA. The legislation being proposed by Secretary Schlesinger would represent an important step in the direction of providing flexibility to the management of DOD intelligence organizations, to the end that their special needs in terms of control of sensitive intelligence matters and the development of the highest quality of personnel can be met.

There is never a good time to propose modification or change. I favor a direct approach to this matter now. I believe that U.S. intelligence agencies must have wide latitude to acquire the highest quality people, to enhance their careers, and to change the personnel mix, within appropriate due process, as technical requirements and resource investments dictate. These changes must be made so as to retain the best talent mix we can to do the job and in consideration of security requirements within which our people must work. I therefore endorse Secretary Schlesinger's effort to improve the managerial arrangements for DOD intelligence organizations and find it both timely and responsive.

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby

DCI/IC/CS, [redacted] /WEColby:is
(5/10/74)

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Per DCI, Copy to Sec DEF, Dir, DIA and Dir. NSA/14 May 74 in [redacted]

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Dear

STA

Here is a copy of the DCI's letter
supporting DOD 93-84. I hope you and your
staff will give some special attention to this.
Please keep in touch.

John

*Attachment was
DCI/IC-74-1030*

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

DCI
5/13/74

Bill:

Here is a copy of DOD draft letter re their
legislation for DIA.



13 May 1974

(DATE)

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